

FARMERS' COLUMN.



the meal, and reducing it to a thin mucus. (flaxseed will answer the same purpose). When two months old, the calf will eat a small quantity of hay, but we have found it better to eat the hay and add the allowance of meal to it. A young calf is not able to digest a large quantity of solid food, and a pint of wet hay, with one ounce of meal will be ample as a beginning. By gradually increasing the allowance, the calf will gain regularly, and may go out to grass in the spring.—*American Agriculturist*.

ACROSTIC.

When the hens are to do the hatching they need to be removed to the "hitting" room. This should be done at night. Move the hen carefully and quietly, and put her on the nest with dummy eggs for a few days until she is sitting steadily. The French use turkeys and do not wait for them to be "broody," but make them drunk with a wine-glass of spirits when they are wanted for use. An ordinary-sized turkey will cover twenty-two eggs and may be used for several lots of eggs.

In incubators and artificial mothers, however, have been brought to such a state of perfection that it seems fully to cling to the old method. The saving comes from the avoidance of loss by breakage, by hens leaving the nest or trampling the half-hatched chicks to death. Moreover, the incubator and brooder are always ready for use, and save the time of hens, which can be devoted to laying. In both the natural and artificial method it is necessary to full success that the eggs receive a daily airing.

As the chicks hatch, remove them from the nest as fast as dry, and cover them with some warm material until ready to put them out. Here is where the brooder artificial mother comes into play. The chicks may be taken from the hen or the incubator, and put into the brooder, where, by means of a small lamp, they are kept warm and dry, and receive all the brooding they need—more than with the hen for the brooder is always ready to hover them while the hen is not.

The young chicks need no food for the first twenty-four hours. After that they should be fed plentifully and often. At first give them the yolks of hard-boiled eggs, cracked or crumbled fine. After the second day mix coarse corn meal and wheat bran, equal parts, and soak it. When two weeks old, begin feeding cracked corn or wheat for their night feed. In addition to this they may be given occasional feeds of boiled rice, meal, potatoe boiled and mashed and mixed with a little corn or barley meal, bread crumbs and stale bread steeped in milk or water; in fact, all the scraps from the table should be saved and given them. Green food—cabbage, chopped fine, onions, dill, celery tops and, less of all, lettuce—is highly relished and should be fed to them often. To give delicacy to the flesh of the chicks designed for the table, make their principal food for a week or ten days before killing, barley-meal moistened with milk, and occasionally alternate with Indian meal.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Among the questions most often asked me are the following: Are the chicks as healthy under the care of the artificial mother as under the natural parent? Answer—more so, and especially because they escape the flies which always attack chicks soon after they are hatched. Question—Are artificially hatched chickens likely to have gapes and chicken cholera? Answer—After careful examination and experiment I am satisfied they are not. Q. Is it necessary to be very careful in handling eggs? Answer—Not as careful as we are apt to think. Jolting does not harm, though a sudden jar which severs the inner connection from the shell does. Q. Is it good to wet feed long before feeding? Yes. Unless we long enough before feeding to allow it to wet, it will digest the crop, and is apt to cause sickness and sometimes death. I always prefer to cook food for chickens and all stock, and believe in the practice most heartily. Q. Is eastern water injurious to fowls? Not if pure. Q. Is it a good plan to put pepper in food? A. I don't believe in stimulants of any kind, or in any of the condiments and artificial foods in vogue. Good, wholesome food fed often, is best, and helps most to force the six weeks' broilers, in the sale of which lies the profit of poultry raising. The question about gapes and cholera was put to me because it seemed that the artificial method would prevent the spread of such contagions. As to the tick and gape worm Dr. Law thinks it not unlikely that the gape worm lives in a parasite state in the abdomen of the tick, and he gives an instance of a similar case in a certain species of a tapeworm common in dogs.—A. M. Halsted in *Rural New Yorker*.

Spring or Fall Calves.

It is in question if a spring calf or a fall calf is the better to raise. This depends altogether upon the manner in which the calf is reared. For the dairy, under equal conditions, a fall calf is better than a spring calf, as it can be brought through the winter in good order, and put at once upon pasture in the spring, when a little bran or ground feed will help it to thrive quickly, and arrive at a condition for breeding in time to come in, in the spring, at the age of 28 months; or, if desired for a winter cow, at the age of two years, or considerably more, when she comes in under similar circumstances. This is one important consideration. Another scarcely less so, is that a spring calf can derive very little or no advantage from the summer pasture, and thus requires feeding through two winters before it comes into profit. Again winter feeding is far more probable than summer, and to have fresh cows in October or November, makes them available for this more profitable business; so that, on the whole, fall calves may be considered more profitable than those of the spring.

As the winter weather is not favorable to the growth of young animals, extra care must be taken in rearing fall calves. A good start is a great point, and this may be made by leaving the calf with the dam for two or three days, after which a warm, sheltered pen should be provided for it, adjoining a box stall, in which the dam may be kept so long as may be convenient. Here it may be fed upon skimmed milk, warmed to a temperature of 80 or 90 degrees, after a week's feeding upon the fresh, warm milk just drawn from the cow. For the dairy, no oil meal is necessary; but for other purposes, an ounce of linseed oil meal will be useful, added to the milk; first, however, boiling



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